



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PROJECT STARTS AT THE 101/405 INTERCHANGE

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) started work April 4 on a \$46 million project to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow at the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101)/San Diego Freeway (I-405) interchange.

The project extends the current auxiliary lane on northbound I-405 past the Greenleaf off-ramp to the U.S. 101 connector. The project also will close the loop on-ramp from eastbound Ventura Boulevard and construct a bypass of the Ventura Boulevard/Sepulveda Boulevard Intersection using Dickens Street. The Sepulveda Boulevard on-ramp will be reconfigured to separate the U.S. 101 connector on-ramps from the northbound I-405 on-ramp. A city of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) project to widen Sepulveda Boulevard is being combined with this project. Steve Rados of Santa Ana is the contractor on the project, which is estimated to complete in spring 2007.

The project will enhance safety by reducing the need to cross several lanes of traffic to access the connector. Combined with prior and planned projects at the interchange, the project will provide congestion relief at one of the busiest interchanges in the State.

Recent projects at the interchange include:

- A 7.8 mile High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on southbound I-405 between Burbank Boulevard and Waterford Street. This \$20.5 million project, completed in January 2002, has saved motorists along this section of the freeway an average of 18 minutes per day.
- An \$11 million two-mile auxiliary lane on northbound I-405, from just north of Mulholland Drive to Sepulveda Boulevard, completed in January, 2003. Auxiliary lanes ease merging onto and off the freeway and this lane provides additional capacity at the interchange.





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- A connector widening project from northbound I-405 to eastbound U.S. 101. This project involved adding a lane to the connector road, doubling its capacity. The \$9 million project completed in June 2004.

Planned projects include:

- Constructing a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) on northbound I-405 between Ventura Boulevard and Burbank Boulevard. Scheduled to begin in late spring 2005, when complete the HOV lane will be continuous northerly through the I-405/U.S.101 Interchange.
- Extending the southbound I-405 HOV lane and adding auxiliary lanes from Waterford Street to I-10. This \$60 million project is expected to begin summer 2005. When completed in 2009, it will provide a continuous HOV lane on southbound I-405 in Los Angeles County.
- Constructing an HOV lane on northbound I-405 from I-10 to U.S. 101. This project currently is expected to begin summer 2011, with completion anticipated in 2015.

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